

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an amendment filed on 7/15/2010 and authorized examiner's amendment dated 9/27/2010.
- Claims 31-34, 36-40, 42-45, 47-51, 53-57, 59-63, 65, 88-97 are now allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 13-19, filed 7/15/2010, with respect to claims 31, 37, 43, 48, 54, and 60 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of 31, 37, 43, 48, 54, and 60 has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brendan Mee on 9/27/2010.

Please amend the following claims:

31. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a consumer to submit ~~a customizable custom image data for printing of a custom image to be printed~~ directly on a non-planar surface of each one of a plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans comprising:

a computer, adapted to communicate with a consumer's computer and enable the consumer's computer to communicate custom image data over a network;

a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is integrated with a print head and adapted to receive the custom image data from the computer and print directly on a non-planar surface of each one of said plurality of

sugar shell candies or jellybeans a high quality image having a resolution greater than 200 dpi that corresponds to the received custom image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candies or jellybeans; and

a conveyor for holding and conveying said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently past a print head at an angle perpendicular to the print head of the ink jet printer during printing in a single pass to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for use on a system for enabling a consumer to submit a ~~customizable~~ custom image data for printing of a custom image ~~to be printed~~ directly on a non-planar surface of each one of a plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans, the system including a computer structured to communicate over a network with a consumer's computer, and a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is integrated with a print head and adapted to communicate with the computer, the method comprising:

(a) the computer enabling the consumer's computer to receive custom image data from the consumer and communicate that custom image data over the network to the computer;

(b) the computer receiving the communicated custom image data over the network from the consumer's computer;

(c) the drop-on-demand ink-jet printer receiving the custom image data from the computer and printing directly on the non-planar surface of each one of said

plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans a high quality image having a resolution greater than 200 dpi that corresponds to the received custom image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candies or jellybeans; and

(d) a conveyor for holding and conveying said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently past a print head at an angle perpendicular to the print head of the drop-on-demand ink jet printer during printing in a single pass to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi.

43. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a consumer to submit, over the Internet, a ~~customizable~~ custom image data for printing of a custom image ~~to be printed~~ directly on a non-planar surface of ~~a~~ each one of a plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans, comprising:

a server computer, adapted to communicate with a client computer and enable the client computer to receive custom image data from the consumer and communicate the custom image data over the Internet to the server computer, the server computer being adapted to receive the transmitted custom image data over the Internet;

a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is integrated with a print head and adapted to receive the custom image data from the server computer and print directly on a non-planar surface of each one of a plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans a high quality image having a resolution of greater than 200 dpi that corresponds to the received custom image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candies or jellybeans; and

a conveyor for holding and conveying said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently past a print head at an angle perpendicular to the print head of the drop-

on-demand ink jet printer during printing in a single pass to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi.

48. (Currently Amended) A system for custom manufacturing decorated sugar shell candies or jellybeans on the basis of instructions of a consumer, the system comprising:

a server computer adapted to:
communicate over a network with a client computer of the consumer,
receive over the network, from the client computer, customizable custom
image information data submitted to the client computer by the consumer, and
communicate the received custom image information data to a drop-on-
demand ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is
integrated with a print head and adapted to cause printing directly on a non-planar surface of
each one of a plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans of a high quality image having a
resolution of greater than 200 dpi that corresponds with the received custom image information
data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candies or jellybeans, said plurality of sugar
shell candies or jellybeans being held and conveyed on a conveyor transiently past a print head at
an angle perpendicular to the print head of the drop-on-demand ink jet printer during printing in
a single pass to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi.

54. (Currently Amended) A method on a server computer on a network for facilitating
custom manufacturing of decorated sugar shell candies or jellybeans on the basis of instructions
of a consumer, the method comprising:

communicating over the network with a client computer of the consumer,

receiving over the network, from the client computer, customizable
custom image information data submitted to the client computer by the consumer, and
communicating the received image information data to a drop-on- demand
ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is integrated with a
print head to cause printing directly on a non-planar surface of each one of a plurality of sugar
shell candies or jellybeans of a high quality image having a resolution greater than 200 dpi that
corresponds with the received custom image information data in the manufacture of personalized
sugar shell candies or jellybeans, wherein said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans is
held and conveyed on a conveyor transiently past a print head at an angle perpendicular to the
print head of the drop-on-demand ink jet printer during printing in a single pass to obtain a
printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi.

60. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing executable code adapted to
control a server computer on a network to perform a method for facilitating custom
manufacturing of decorated sugar shell candies or jellybeans on the basis of instructions of a
consumer, the method comprising:

communicating over the network with a client computer of the consumer,
receiving over the network, from the client computer, customizable
custom image information data submitted to the client computer by the consumer, and
communicating the received image information custom image data to a
drop-on- demand ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is
integrated with a print head to cause printing directly on a non-planar surface of each one of a
plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans of a high quality image having a resolution of

greater than 200 dpi that corresponds with the received custom image information data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candies or jellybeans and wherein said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans is held and conveyed on a conveyor transiently past a print head at an angle perpendicular to the print head of the drop-on-demand ink jet printer during printing in a single pass to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi.

88. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31, wherein the ~~customizable image~~ custom image data is a personalized message.

89. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein the ~~customizable image~~ custom image data is a personalized message.

90. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 43, wherein the ~~customizable image~~ custom image data is a personalized message.

91. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 48, wherein the ~~customizable image~~ custom image data is a personalized message.

92. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 54, wherein the ~~customizable image~~ custom image data is a personalized message.

93. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 31, further comprising an image processor adapted to process the custom image data and to allow the consumer to preview options for decoration of said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans.

94. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 37, wherein the system comprises an image processor adapted to process the image data and to allow the consumer to preview options for decoration of said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans, the method further comprising processing the custom image data according to selection by the consumer and permitting preview by the consumer of the ~~customized~~ custom image on the sugar shell candies or jellybeans.

95. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 43, further comprising an image processor adapted to process the custom image data and to allow the consumer to preview options for decoration of said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans.

96. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 48, wherein the server computer is adapted to process the custom image ~~information data~~ according to selection by the consumer and permit preview by the consumer of the image on the ~~plurality of~~ sugar shell candies or jellybeans.

97. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 54, further comprising processing the custom image ~~information data~~ according to selection by the consumer and permitting preview by the consumer of the image on the ~~plurality of~~ sugar shell candies or jellybeans.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 31-34, 36-40, 42-45, 47-51, 53-57, 59-63, 65, and 88-97 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-39 respectively.

---The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts of record fails to expressly teach and/or suggest "a drop-on-demand ink-jet printer having a reservoir for holding dispersed pigmented inks which is integrated with a print head and adapted to receive the custom image data from the computer and print directly on a non-planar surface of each one of said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans a high quality image having a resolution greater than 200 dpi that corresponds to the received custom image data in the manufacture of personalized sugar shell candies or jellybeans; and a conveyor for holding and conveying said plurality of sugar shell candies or jellybeans transiently past a print head at an angle perpendicular to the print head of the ink jet printer during printing in a single pass to obtain a printed image having resolution greater than 200 dpi" as cited in claim 31 (renumbered as claim 1).

--- Independent claims 37, 43, 48, 54, and 60 recite the same or similar claim limitations and/or features as recited in independent claim 31 (renumbered as claim 1) and therefore are found to be allowable for the same or similar reasons as stated and mentioned above in independent claim 31 (renumbered as claim 1).

---Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THIERRY L. PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thierry L Pham/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2625